United Nations E/CN.18/2011/1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
25 October 2010

Original: English

United Nations Forum on Forests
Ninth session
New York, 24 January–4 February 2011
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Assessment of progress made on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and towards the achievement of the four global objectives on forests.
4. Regional and subregional inputs.
5. Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication:
   (a) Community-based forest management;
   (b) Social development and indigenous and other local and forest-dependent communities, including forest land tenure;
   (c) Social and cultural aspects.
6. International Year of Forests 2011.
7. Emerging issues.
8. High-level segment.
9. Multi-stakeholder dialogue.
10. Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.
11. Means of implementation for sustainable forest management.
12. Forum Trust Fund.
13. Other matters.
14. Dates and venue for the tenth session of the Forum.
15. Provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Forum.
16. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its ninth session.

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the United Nations Forum on Forests shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chair and such other officers as may be required (see E/5975/Rev.1). In accordance with Council resolution 2000/35, by which the Forum was established, the Bureau of the Forum shall consist of a Chair and four Vice-Chairs, one of whom shall also act as Rapporteur, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution. By its decision 2007/273, the Council decided that, commencing with the eighth session of the Forum, officers elected to the Bureau would hold office for a term of two years.

At the first meeting of its ninth session, on 1 May 2009, the Forum elected Mr. Ndiawar Dieng (Senegal), Mr. Ingwald Gschwandtl (Austria), Mr. Raymond Harold Landveld (Suriname) and Mr. Zainol Rahim Zainuddin (Malaysia) as members of the Bureau for the ninth session of the Forum. It postponed to a later meeting the election of the member from the regional group of Eastern European States and of the Chair, as well as the designation of a Rapporteur. Since the first meeting, the secretariat has received the nomination of Mr. Arvids Ozols (Latvia) on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States for the remaining position on the Bureau. The Forum may wish to elect the remaining official to the Bureau.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

In accordance with rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Forum shall, at the beginning of the session, adopt the agenda and organization of work for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (E/CN.18/2011/1)

3. Assessment of progress made on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and towards the achievement of the four global objectives on forests

The General Assembly, by its resolution 62/98, adopted the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests. The multi-year programme of work of the Forum for the period 2007-2015, adopted at its seventh session, provided that, at each session, the Forum would focus on, inter alia, progress towards the achievement of the four global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the assessment of progress made on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and towards the achievement of the four global objectives on forests (E/CN.18/2011/2)

4. Regional and subregional inputs

By paragraph 2 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49, the Forum was assigned several new principal functions, one of them being to strengthen interaction between the Forum and relevant regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes to facilitate enhanced cooperation and effective implementation of sustainable forest management, as well as to contribute to the work of the Forum. In paragraph 11 of the resolution, forest-related regional and subregional bodies, mechanisms and processes were invited to strengthen their collaboration with and to provide input to the work of the Forum. The multi-year programme of work of the Forum for the period 2007-2015 calls for the provision of an interactive platform for dialogue with regional and subregional forest-related and other relevant processes, mechanisms, instruments and organizations. In addition, the Forum, in its resolution adopted at the eighth session,[1] invited regional and subregional organizations and processes to provide input to the Forum at its ninth session on the theme "Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication, including sharing of regional perspectives, approaches and experiences".

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on regional and subregional inputs (E/CN.18/2011/3)

5. Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication:

(a) Community-based forest management

(b) Social development and indigenous and other local and forest-dependent communities, including forest land tenure

(c) Social and cultural aspects

In accordance with its multi-year programme of work for the period 2007-2015, the Forum, at its ninth session, is scheduled to consider, under the overall theme "Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication", the following sub-themes: (a) Community-based forest management; (b) Social development and indigenous and other local and forest-dependent communities, including forest and land tenure; and (c) Social and cultural aspects. The deliberations on those three sub-themes will be held in the context of the main task of the Forum session as well as of the cross-cutting issues and common agenda items as listed in the multi-year programme of work.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on community-based forest management (E/CN.18/2011/4)

Report of the Secretary-General on forests for people: cultural and social values of forests and social development (E/CN.18/2011/5)

[1] See E/2009/42-E/CN.18/2009/20, chap. I.B.

Report of the Secretary-General on conclusions and recommendations for addressing key challenges of forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication (E/CN.18/2011/6)

6. International Year of Forests 2011

The General Assembly, by its resolution 61/193 of 20 December 2006, proclaimed 2011 the International Year of Forests and requested the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests to serve as the focal point for the implementation of the Year in collaboration with Governments, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, regional and subregional organizations and processes as well as relevant major groups. The Year will be launched during the high-level segment of the ninth session of the Forum.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the International Year of Forests (E/CN.18/2011/7)

7. Emerging issues

In accordance with its multi-year programme of work for the period 2007-2015, the Forum may include in the agenda of any of its sessions emerging issues of global significance that are related to and/or have an impact on forests and sustainable forest management and which are urgent, unexpected and not already addressed in the agenda of the respective session. In this context, the Bureau of the ninth session has decided to incorporate relevant emerging issues to be discussed in the context of the overall theme of the session as well as at the high-level segment.

8. High-level segment

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, the Forum should hold high-level ministerial segments and should include a policy dialogue with the heads of organizations participating in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as other forest-related international and regional organizations and instruments. In accordance with the Forum's multi-year programme of work for the period 2007-2015, high-level ministerial segments will be held in 2011 and 2015.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the high-level segment (E/CN.18/2011/8)

9. Multi-stakeholder dialogue

The Forum has valued the participation of major groups in its work and has incorporated multi-stakeholder dialogues, involving the nine major groups identified in Agenda 21, in its multi-year programme of work. At each session since its second session in 2002, the Forum has organized a multi-stakeholder dialogue, which provides a platform for the exchange of ideas and information between Member States, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and major groups on the Forum's work. The secretariat maintains contact and holds frequent consultations with major groups on the planning of the multi-stakeholder dialogues.

The multi-stakeholder dialogue to be held at the ninth session will focus on seeking multi-stakeholder perspectives on the overall theme and the sub-themes.

Documentation

Note by the secretariat on the multi-stakeholder dialogue (E/CN.18/2011/9) and its addenda, the discussion papers submitted by various major groups

10. Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

At its first session, in 2001, the United Nations Forum on Forests decided to develop and maintain contact, cooperate and carry out active efforts to develop synergies with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other relevant international and regional processes and organizations, institutions and instruments. The Forum may wish to consider approaches for further enhancing cooperation, including policy and programme coordination, and, in particular, providing guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination (E/CN.18/2011/10)

Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2009 and 2010: information document (E/CN.18/2011/11)

11. Means of implementation for sustainable forest management

In accordance with the multi-year programme of work of the Forum, "means of implementation for sustainable forest management" will be a recurring cross-cutting issue at each session. The Forum considered the issue as a specific agenda item at its eighth session, at which it decided that, at its ninth session, it would complete consideration of the relevant bracketed draft text developed in informal consultations. Pursuant to its decision 2009/240, the Economic and Social Council noted that the Chair of the ninth session of the Forum intended to undertake informal consultations in order to reach agreement on the substantive issues in the bracketed draft text and authorized, should agreement be reached on those issues, the holding of a one-day special session of the ninth session of the Forum, in 2009, for the purpose of adopting the agreed text. As a result, at the special session of the ninth session, held on 30 October 2009, the United Nations Forum on Forests adopted a resolution on means of implementation for sustainable forest management (see E/2009/118-E/CN.18/SS.2009/2), by which the Forum established an Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group and a facilitative process.

In its decision 2009/268, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the special session. In accordance with the resolution, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group would hold two meetings, one before the ninth session and one before the tenth session of the Forum. Accordingly, the Forum will consider the report of the first meeting of Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group, which was held in Nairobi from 13 to 17 September 2010. The

Forum will also review the performance of the facilitative process under agenda item 11.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on means of implementation for sustainable forest management (E/CN.18/2011/12)

Report of the first meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing (E/CN.18/2011/13)

Note by the secretariat on the first meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing (E/CN.18/2010/2)

12. Forum Trust Fund

Pursuant to the multi-year programme of work of the Forum for the period 2007-2015, the Forum secretariat is to report at each session on the operation of the Forum Trust Fund, including on the amount and source of contributions and a description of how funds have been expended.

Documentation

Note by the secretariat on United Nations trust funds to support the United Nations Forum on Forests (E/CN.18/2011/14)

13. Other matters

The Forum may wish to consider any matters raised for discussion under this item.

14. Dates and venue for the tenth session of the Forum

The Forum shall decide the date and venue for the tenth session.

15. Provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Forum

The Forum shall recommend to the Economic and Social Council for adoption a provisional agenda for the tenth session.

16. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its ninth session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Forum shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its session.